



Newsletter

For all parents, staff, governors and pupils
Friday 7th September 2018



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www.dilkesacademy.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back! I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share.

Welcome to our new Nursery/Reception children and their families who are settling in really well. We wish all our new families a special Dilkes Academy welcome, and we hope they will continue to enjoy their time at Dilkes Academy. We look forward to working with you.

I know you will continue to work with us, so your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, and a determination to be the best person they can be.

Can you ensure, that, as parents and carers you put a great value on school and education. Explain to your child that treating everyone with respect, being on time and in school everyday, wearing the correct uniform and working hard in school is important to you. These are also important life skills. The value you place on these will be the value your child holds.

It is lovely to see so many children returning to school, looking so smart in their school uniform.

We are all busy people, but we ask that you support the school with the completion of homework activities. Reading from real books is important for children to develop a love of books. Having a range of books at home and regular visits to the library also encourages this. At this time, turn the television/computer off. Use the television/computer as incentives for work done - they will value it more.

We in school will do everything we can to help your child to do their best. Let us know if we can support you in any way. Remember we operate an open door policy and have members of staff who are available to talk. Feel free to book an appointment with your child's class teacher or our parent partnership officer, Mrs Ridgewell, if you have concerns or need support, help or advice.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr R Latham

BUILDING REFURBISHMENT NEWS:

We are happy to inform you that we are in the process of installing brand new toilet facilities in the Reception classroom area for our pupils. These toilets will be for the sole use of Reception classes and will be easily accessible from both Reception classrooms.

We are also currently upgrading the toilet facilities in KS2 to match those in use in KS1. This refurbishment will allow us to offer gender neutral toilet provision for all our pupils, in line with the latest legislation. All toilet facilities will now have a clearly visible open entrance to the cubicle and handwashing areas, each cubicle will have a privacy door and allow pupils total discretion. This will enable the school to be fully inclusive and transparent at all times and be able to meet the needs and requirements of all our pupils.

THE SCHOOL IS NOW CASHLESS!:

Please be reminded that we are now a cashless school and we are unable to take cash or cheque payment for any items.

All school dinners, trip monies, swimming fees, arts and games club and sundry items need to be purchased online using Parentmail Pay.

If you have any problems with using Parentmail Pay, please contact the Front Office for assistance.



COFFEE MORNINGS:

All parents/carers are invited to attend our weekly Coffee Mornings that are held every Tuesday 9-10am. We have free tea / coffee / soft drinks and biscuits with lots of toys and activities for children.

Our first Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday 11th September, all younger siblings are welcome.

Thank you.



PARENT PARTNERSHIP:

Mrs Ridgewell and the PPT would like to welcome all our pupils and their families back to school, especially our new pupils in Nursery and Reception.

The PPT have another fun filled year planned with many events and celebrations to help the children have positive and lasting memories of school.

If you would like to join the PPT email list to remain up to date with events or possibly volunteer to help then please email Eleni Ridgewell at PPT@dilkesacademy.org.uk.

Thank you.

THURROCK EDUCATION AWARDS 2018:

Dilkes Academy are pleased to once again be supporting the Thurrock Education Awards 2018.

These awards celebrate the talented and hardworking individuals and teams in education.

We are keen for colleagues, governors, parents, carers, students, volunteers and business partners to submit nominations for teaching and support staff who have gone the extra mile.

For more information on the categories and to submit your nominations, please go to thurrock.gov.uk/education-awards, this year's nominations close on Saturday 22nd September.

READING INCENTIVE SCHEME:

Please ensure your child brings in a signed reading log to enable them to take part in this year's fantastic reading competition. If your child is a 100% reader, they will be given a certificate for each term and if they keep it up for the entire year, they will be entered into a competition to win a trip to the West End to watch a theatre show!



SCHOOL COUNCIL:

After a busy year last year, topped off with a visit from the Mayor in July, it is time to elect a new school council. This is an important position in the school, councillors represent the views of their class in regular meetings, organise fundraising events, meet important visitors and help to shape the future of Dilkes Academy. Classes are busily electing their 2 representatives and we look forward to sharing our new school council with you in the next newsletter.

WE HAVE A NEW FOOTBALL KIT!:

Many thanks to Premier League Stars for our new school football kit which arrived on Thursday.



PRIMARY GEOGRAPHY QUALITY MARK:

Thanks to all the hard work from the staff and students at Dilkes, we have managed to earn the Primary Geography Quality Mark, Bronze Award. We are very proud of all the work and activities - in and out of lessons - which celebrate Geography and the appreciation of the world around us that it allows.



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS:

Well done to all the children who received their Times Tables Rock Stars pencil today for making the biggest improvement in their times table speed over the summer.

We will continue to reward the children who have the fastest times, most improvement and most coins each half term and sharing leader boards for each year group every week so keep on rocking - it really does help with all your work in maths!

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS—BRIEFINGS FOR PARENTS:

Parents of Year 6 pupils are invited to attend one of the two briefing sessions to explain the process for secondary school admissions:

Wednesday 19 September 2018—Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays Essex RM16 2JU

Session 1 - 4pm - 5.30pm

Session 2—7pm - 8.30pm

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS—SEPTEMBER 2019:

The 2019 Primary Admissions round is open from 1st November 2018 to 15th January 2019. It is recommended that parents apply online at www.thurrock.gov.uk/admissions.

Briefing sessions for parents will be held as follows:

Thursday 11th October 2018—Civic Hall, Blackshots Lane, Grays, Essex, RM16 2JU

Session 1—4pm to 5.30pm

Session 2—7pm to 8.30pm

These briefing sessions will explain the admissions process and help parents maximise their chance of receiving an offer at one of their preferred school.